



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

MontCAS Montana Comprehensive Assessment System August 2009 Newsletter

2009-2010 MontCAS Testing Windows

October 19 - November 20, 2009	English Language Proficiency (ELP), Grades K-12
February 9 - March 24, 2010	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science.
March 1 - March 24, 2010	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science



Save the Dates for the 2010 Assessment Conference

- January 28-29, 2010
- Helena, Montana – Red Lion Colonial Inn
- Assessment and test administration training sessions
- Details including registration information will be in the September issue of *JUMP*.

Test Coordinator Information

If your system has a new test coordinator this school year, please contact the Office of Public Instruction assessment staff with updated contact information. Please provide the test coordinator's name, email address, phone number, shipping address, and mailing address. OPI assessment staff contact information is at the end of this newsletter. Test Coordinator Information is also collected with schools' data during the Office of Public Instruction Annual Data Collection (ADC); however, timely important information will be sent to System Test Coordinators prior to the ADC Collection.



MontCAS Presents



FAME (Formative Assessment for Montana Educators)

- Online Class
- Thursdays, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
- August 20 – December 3, 2009
 - The first session on August 20 will be repeated on August 27 to enable educators to attend the first session most convenient to their schedules.
- Three (3) graduate credits available
- Renewal units available
- Text and materials provided by OPI
- Course created and conducted by Dr. Margaret Heritage, UCLA's CRESST (Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing)
- For more information, the syllabus, and online registration:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/Heritage.html>



Other Webinars Online

- *Strategies for Students with Disabilities to Access the General Curriculum*
<http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p75167474/> (Duration: 1 hour)
- *MontCAS Presents--Information*
<http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p37073665/> (Duration: 30 minutes)
- *MARS (Montana Analysis and Reporting System) – Introduction and Review*
<http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p54135371/> (Duration: 1 hour)



Other Webinars Planned

- *English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELP) Administration Training*
- *Formative Assessment for Young Writers*

Thank You

In July, thirty Montana teachers met in Helena for a review of the items for the 2010 Reading, Math, and Science Criterion-Referenced Tests. Thank you to these teachers for their expertise and summer time.


CRT and CRT-Alternate

CRT and CRT-Alternate Spring 2009 Results

Reading and Math results for grades 3-8 and 10 and Science results for grades 4, 8, and 10 have been available on the Montana Analysis and Reporting System (MARS) since June. The following reports are posted on MARS:

- School and System Roster and Item Level Reports
- School and System Summary Reports
- System Roster Data File

More on MARS on page 4.

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- **Printed Parent/Student Reports** and cumulative file labels for Reading and Math in grades 3-8 and 10 and Science in grades 4, 8, and 10 will be mailed to System Test Coordinators September 9. System Test Coordinators can expect to receive them in the mail from Measured Progress by September 19.

- In the shipment will be letters to accompany the Parent/Student Reports for students who participated in the CRT with a nonstandard accommodation (s).
- Please read the letter and send it **ONLY** with reports that include the section symbol (§) indicating a nonstandard accommodation (s). If a report has this symbol, the letter should accompany the report home.
- Please **do not** send the letter with all reports. Thank you.



- **2009 CRT and CRT-Alternate Interpretive Guide**
 - Hard copies of the *Guide* will be included in the mailing. It will also be online by September 19 at the following link:
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/Phase2.html#Interp>
- **Reports for home-schooled students** who took the CRT or CRT-Alternate in your school:
 - The results for these students are not included in any of your system or school reports.
 - You (or the County Superintendent) will receive the paper Parent/Student Report and cumulative label for each home-schooled student who took the test in your school.
 - Please contact the County Superintendent to arrange for delivery of these reports to the parents/guardians.



MARS Information

The *MARS User Manual* and the MARS reports are on the secure Measured Progress iServices site:

<http://iServices.MeasuredProgress.org>

- Select "**Montana**" or "**Montana ALT**" (either works for both CRT and CRT-ALT) from the dropdown menu and click "Enter."
- For the *User Manual*, select "Forms and Manuals"
 - Select *MARS User Manual* (pdf)
- For *MARS*
 - Select *MARS*
 - Enter your User Name and Password. These were assigned to systems and schools in the Spring of 2009.
 - If you need assistance, please contact Gayle Allen at OPI:
gallen2@mt.gov or 406-444-3511
 - An introduction and review webinar of MARS is online
<http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p54135371/>
 - The form to request additional MARS training is also online. You may request online as well as on site training.
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/Forms/TrainRqst.pdf>



Registration for CRT-Alternate

Registration Windows for Students Eligible for the CRT-Alternate

October 12 - December 1, 2009	For students currently enrolled in your school
January 4 - January 15, 2010	For students who enroll in your school after December 1, 2009
After January 15, 2010	For students who enroll after January 15, 2010, please contact Judy Snow 406-444-3656 jsnow@mt.gov

Please register your students according to the windows listed above.

- ✚ Registering your currently enrolled students who are eligible for the CRT-Alternate is essential for the production of the materials kits and other test administration materials and for teacher preparation with the materials.
- ✚ Please observe the windows to ensure receipt of materials and smooth test administration. Thank you.
- ✚ All students who are eligible for the CRT-Alternate must be registered for the 2010 administration including students who have been registered for and taken the CRT-Alternate in previous years.
- ✚ A link and directions for registration will be in the September 2009 issue of JUMP.

Guidelines for eligibility for the CRT-Alternate are online at

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PUB/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/09CRTAltGuidance.pdf>

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELP)

2009-2010 ELP Materials/Training Schedule

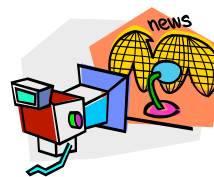
Please contact Karen Richem if you have any questions: krichem@mt.gov or 406-444-0748

Date	Test Coordinator Checklist
July 31, 2009	Questar emails System Test Coordinators information about ordering Level 1 (beginner forms), Braille, and Large Print (LP) test forms.
August 3 - 21, 2009	Level 1 (beginner), Braille, and Large Print (LP) forms must be requested by August 21.
September 4, 2009	OPI sends Questar the number of LEP students in each grade based on what is reported in AIM. This number will help Questar determine how many test booklets to send to each system.
September 4, 2009	Training Webinar posted on MontCAS Presents http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/MCPresents.html This will be available during the training and testing windows.
September 14 - October 16, 2009	System Test Coordinators provide training for test administrators.
September 1 - October 16	Schools enter enrollment and program participation data for all students - in AIM System during AIM Beginning of Year Collection. Make sure LEP students are entered and verified to receive testing labels.
October 5, 2009	Questar ships testing materials to System Test Coordinators.
October 19-November 20, 2009	English Language Proficiency (ELP) Testing Window
October 30, 2009	OPI sends Questar the list of students identified as LEP in AIM, so that Questar can print barcode labels for the students. AIM must be updated no later than October 29, 2009 in order to receive barcode labels for students.
November 9, 2009	Questar mails barcode labels to systems (2 nd day delivery).
December 4, 2009	Deadline for systems to ship testing materials to Questar.
February 2010	Questar ships reports to System Test Coordinators

Other Information

Updates on Two Montana Grant Awards

The Office of Public Instruction Assessment and Special Education Divisions continue to work with two grant awards to study assessments based on modified achievement standards. The grants target high school reading and grades 7 and 8 reading and math.



- The high school reading research and pilot test are complete. Currently, the data are being analyzed. Conclusions and recommendations will be reported by March 1, 2010.
 - **Grade 7 and 8 Reading and Math Pilot Test Is Scheduled**
 - The Grade 7 and 8 reading and math grant work included a beta test in the Spring of 2009.
 - A pilot test will be administered January 6 -29, 2010.
 - This project is researching a scaffolded online test based on modified achievement standards.
 - In September, OPI will contact system test coordinators and special education directors about participating in this very important pilot.
- ★ The response to the beta test was excellent, and we look forward to even more participation in the pilot.
- Two PowerPoints present information on the grants. They are:
 - *New Ideas in Test Design*
http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/assessment/conf/Presentations/09NewIdeasDesign_CCamacho.pdf
 - *Technical Requirements*
http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/conf/Presentations/09ChildrensProgress_TR_CCamacho.pdf

To ensure the privacy of students, teachers, schools, districts, and communities, we cannot give public recognition to any of the people who are making these projects happen, but without their commitment to students and willingness to add more to their already busy schedules, the potential of these grants would not be possible.

Annual Data Collection (ADC) Timeline

September 8, 2009	Annual Data Collection Opens
October 5, 2009	Official Student Count Date
October 27, 2009	ADC Due to County Superintendents
November 3, 2009	ADC Due to OPI

- Because of four (4) major data collections for districts in October, the 2009 ADC window is one week longer than in the past.
- Districts should watch their official email for announcements regarding training times and locations. The training will be in early September.

Aim Collection Schedule

Please contact the AIM Help Desk if you have questions:

1-877-424-6681 or opiainhelp@mt.gov



Start Date	End Date	Event
8/17/2009	9/16/2009	End of Year Grad & Dropout for 08-09 collection
9/1/09	10/16/09	Beginning of Year Collection
10/30/2009	10/30/2009	ELP Barcode label info extracted from AIM and Sent to Questar for ELP Assessment
1/11/2010	1/29/2010	CRT and CRT-Alternate Assessment Registration Collection for barcode labels
3/1/2010	3/26/2010	Program Participation Collection – Count date 3/9/10



Testing Contractor Contact Information

The CRT and the CRT-Alternate – Measured Progress, Inc.

Dan Verdick, Montana CRT Program Manager

dverdick@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901 x2220

Nancy Hall, Montana CRT Program Assistant

nhall@measuredprogress.org or 888-792-2741

Danielle Hornsby, Montana CRT Program Assistant

hornsbys.danielle@measuredprogress.org or 888-792-2741

Lynn Albee, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Manager

albee.lynn@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901x2309

Kevin Froton, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Assistant

kfroton@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901x2196

The English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment – Questar Assessment Inc.

BJ Vickery, Program Manager

bjvickery@questarai.com or 888-854-9596



From the OPI Assessment Staff

Gayle Allen, Administrative Specialist, gallen2@mt.gov, 406-444-3511

Karen Richem, Assessment Specialist, krichem@mt.gov, 406-444-0748

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, jsnow@mt.gov, 406-444-3656

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